

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on Page 2, line 18 with the following amended paragraph:

These and additional objects are accomplished by the various aspects of the present invention, wherein briefly stated, one aspect of the invention is method for scheduling static and dynamic traffic through a switch fabric including one or more switch slices, comprising for individual such switch slices: scheduling static traffic by reserving time slots for transmitting the static traffic to at least one destination through a switch slice; and scheduling dynamic traffic so as not to be transmitting the dynamic traffic to the at least one destination during the reserved time slots through the switch slice, wherein the scheduling dynamic traffic includes receiving dynamic traffic scheduling requests, aging previously received and not granted dynamic traffic scheduling requests, and discarding expired dynamic traffic scheduling requests to define active dynamic traffic scheduling requests.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on Page 2, line 29 with the following amended paragraph:

Another aspect is an apparatus for scheduling static and dynamic traffic through a switch fabric including one or more switch slices. Included in

individual ones of such switch slices are buffers for storing requests for transmission of dynamic traffic to dynamic traffic destinations through the switch slice, wherein the buffers include request shifters that receive dynamic traffic scheduling requests, age previously received and not granted dynamic traffic scheduling requests by shifting them upon each clock pulse controlling transfer of cells to and from the switch slice, and discard expired dynamic traffic scheduling requests by shifting them out of the request shifters; a memory storing a schedule of static traffic to be transmitted to at least one static traffic destination through the switch slice; and a grant scheduler coupled to the buffers and the memory for reserving time slots for transmitting the static traffic to the at least one static traffic destination, and scheduling selected ones of the requests for transmission of dynamic traffic so as not to be transmitting any of the dynamic traffic to the at least one static traffic destination during the reserved time slots through the switch slice.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on Page 4, line 11 with the following amended paragraph:

In yet another aspect, a SONET/SDH network element comprises: a plurality of line cards; and a plurality of switch slices individually coupled to each of the plurality of line cards, and individually including means for scheduling static traffic from one of the plurality of line cards to another or the same one of the

plurality of line cards by reserving time slots for transmitting the static traffic through the individual switch slice, and means for scheduling dynamic traffic so as not to be transmitting the dynamic traffic to the another or the same one of the plurality of line cards during the reserved time slots through the individual switch slice, wherein the scheduling dynamic traffic includes receiving dynamic traffic scheduling requests, aging previously received and not granted dynamic traffic scheduling requests, and discarding expired dynamic traffic scheduling requests to define active dynamic traffic scheduling requests.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on Page 18, line 19 with the following amended paragraph:

FIG. 10 illustrates a flow diagram of a method for determining destination winning requests for dynamic traffic through a switch slice in a destination round-robin tournament fashion that is suitable for performing 904 ~~903~~ in FIG. 9. In 1001, the destination is initialized as the first available destination in ordered sequence. In 1002, the grant scheduler 406 searches the request shifters 402 for a request having the current destination. In 1003, if a request having the current destination is not found, then the grant scheduler 406 goes to 1004 to determine whether the current destination is the last destination in ordered sequence. If it is, then the grant scheduler 406 proceeds to 905 in the method described in reference to FIG. 9. On the other hand, if it is not the last destination in

ordered sequence, then the grant scheduler 406 goes to 1005 to increment the destination to the next available destination in ordered sequence, and then jumps back to 1002, to once again search for a request with the current destination.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on Page 19, line 5 with the following amended paragraph:

On the other hand, if a request having the current destination was found in 1003, ~~1002~~, then in 1006, the grant scheduler 406 continues to search the request shifters 402 until it finds another active request having the current destination. In 1007, if after doing so, there is no other active dynamic traffic scheduling request having the current destination, then the originally retrieved dynamic traffic scheduling request is declared a destination winner in 1008, and the grant scheduler 406 goes back to 1004 to either proceed to 905 or 1005 as previously described.